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EDITORIAL NOTES

The feeling of disappointment that things have not improved as much as was expected with the achievement of independence is very remarkably in the air, and a common impatience with the situation is noticeable. But a wonderful change has taken place in the self-confidence that has been gained by the manner in which difficult risings have been controlled without foreign aid and campaigns conducted with entire success, particularly in Hyderabad. The ability to solve problems of transport by land and air is now definitely seen. The launching of a second ocean-going vessel from an Indian shipbuilding yard and the manner of its launching by Radio is a remarkable event that instils us with pride and restores the confidence well-nigh lost in the ability of our people to do things that for long they had not the opportunity of doing and which they were deemed to be unable to do.

It is a common belief that Steam Engines and Boilers cannot be built in India. But that is because it is not generally known that during war-time both in World War I and World War II Marine Engines have been built in India with Indian material and by Indian labour. There are places where Boilers built in India prior to the World War I can still be seen giving satisfactory performance. The only reason why these are not built in India now is that there are not

sufficient orders for them to make their manufacture profitable. We look forward with great hope to the construction of Locomotives, in the factory now under construction at Mihijam.

While it is true that this country suffered from a lack of higher technical personnel, yet this should not deter us from attempting the establishment of new Industries. The personnel will not appear unless there is need for them and when the need for them arises, it will not be long before individuals will arrange, with or without Government aid, for their own training, for it is true that even now when no need exists for them, there are a number of Indians who have obtained foreign technical training and education at their own expense, beyond the requirements of this country. There are some who, for want of Government employment, have served for years in inferior positions in foreign firms in India and now, when Government have advertised for applications from men of their knowledge and ability, find themselves barred by an age limit. The limit is relaxed in the case of those who belong to the scheduled caste. But since caste is dependent in these days not on ability but on birth and one could not possibly choose his birth, the advertisements require in effect not men of ability but a political representation of a community, caste or creed, and able men refrain from answering such advertisements. The Government therefore loses the benefit of their technical knowledge. It is time that Government realises the folly of seeking representation of communities, castes and creed in technical services and of setting age limits which have no value other than for this purpose. If this folly continues, the nation will certainly feel to the full the want of higher technical personnel, and in spite of the political independence recently achieved, will remain, industrially, in virtual dependence on foreign countries for years to come.
